1/22/71

Dear Dan,

I'm not trying to start a mutual-admiration society with your son, or anything like that, but having just received a very warm letter from him following his recent visit and the gift from you, which we do, very much, appreciate, I write you rather than Howard to let you know it is not as one-way as he makes out.

We have come to know and like a number of young people in the course of the work on which I am engaged. Howard is the youngest. With some we come to regard them almost like foster-sons. All those with whom we maintain close relationshops are fine people. Fine as their characters are, bright as they all are, none is either finer or brighter than Howard. Although he is not a demonstrative person, inside he is very warm, and we are both aware of it. Less commonly, my wife also has a rather warm feeling for him.

Because of his extraordinary intelligence and perceptiveness, I can imagine how difficult it has been to raise him as straight as he is, and how trying it may have been when he was younger, with this exceptional intelligence!

Howard did, whether or not he was aware of it or said it consciously, did disclose a quite proper and not unnatural concern on your part about which I've been intending to write you but have remained too busy. Do not fear that either Bernabei or I will steal anything of Howard's. Bernabei feels about him as I do. Neither of us would do anysuch thing, least of all with Howard. Rather is it the reverse that presents a problem to both Howard and me, as he is aware and as he has just written me about a new development in his school work. When he is here he has access to everything I have, as he has to my limited editions of work I have already done. There is a considerable amount of overlap of interest. However, I know that he would not consciously use what I want him not to, as I know the possibility of honest mistake does exist. It has happened with others, also honest men. More, I also send him copies of all my correspondece with all government agencies (and he has very helpfully, while here, indexed it, a favor to everyone working in the field that also expands his knowledge).

Please excuse the haste. I just want you to know we appreciate your son and your thoughtful gift.

Perhaps sometime when the weather is better you all can come down with him.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg